

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method for treating hypercholesterolemia[[],] or hyperlipidemia ~~or atherosclerosis~~ in a mammal, comprising:

orally administering to said mammal a composition comprising  $\beta$ -casein where the  $\beta$ -casein is comprised of at least 95 wt%  $\beta$ -casein A<sup>2</sup>,

wherein a serum level of any one or more of:

a) cholesterol;

b) low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol relative to high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol;

c) low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol;

d) very low density lipoprotein (VLDL) cholesterol;

e) apolipoprotein B; or

f) triglycerides

after administration of the composition is lower than the serum level before administration of the composition.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 3 where the composition is a food or food product.

6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 5 where the food or food product is milk or a product containing or processed from milk.

7. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 3 where the composition is a dietary supplement.

8. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the dietary supplement is ingested for optimizing fitness, weight loss, weight gain, muscle building, and/or muscle repair.

9. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 3 where the composition is milk containing  $\beta$ -casein where the  $\beta$ -casein is comprised of at least 95 wt%  $\beta$ -casein A<sup>2</sup>.

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 9 where the  $\beta$ -casein is comprised solely of  $\beta$ -casein A<sup>2</sup>.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim  
3 where the  $\beta$ -casein A<sup>2</sup> is obtained from the milk of bovine  
cattle or from the milk of yaks, buffalo, sheep or goats.

13-16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim  
3 where the composition is an aqueous solution, a suspension or  
an emulsion.

18. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim  
3 where the composition is a solid in granular or powder form.

19-24. (canceled)